

### **REMARKS**

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed August 17, 2004 ("Office Action"). Claims 54-99 are presented herewith for consideration. Claims 57, 71 and 78 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

The Applicants' attorney filed an Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") on August 18, 2004. The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the cited art and return an initialed copy of the IDS.

Claims 54-99 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-39 of U.S. Patent No. 6,496,897.

Applicants disagree with the rejection, however, in order to advance prosecution a terminal disclaimer is filed herein and therefore claims 54-99 are believed allowable over claims 1-39 of U.S. Patent No. 6,496,897.

Claims 54-99 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-39 of U.S. Patent No. 6,681,288.

Applicants disagree with the rejection, however, in order to advance prosecution a terminal disclaimer is filed herein and therefore claims 54-99 are believed allowable over claims 1-39 of U.S. Patent No. 6,681,288.

Claims 54-99 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-36 of U.S. Patent No. 6,493,789.

Applicants disagree with the rejection, however, in order to advance prosecution a terminal disclaimer is filed herein and therefore claims 54-99 are believed allowable over claims 1-36 of U.S. Patent No. 6,493,789.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the above amendments and these remarks, reconsideration of claims 54-99 is respectfully requested.

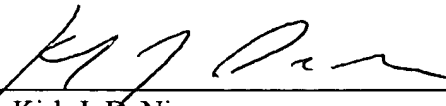
The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501826 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 17, 2004

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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